

# Biological Science, Zoology & Ecology

## **Overview**

Zoology and Ecology students tend to pursue careers in the [Environment and Agriculture](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/environment-and-agriculture) sectors, the animal and plant related aspects of the [Science and Pharmaceuticals](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/science-and-pharmaceuticals/graduate-jobs-in-science-and-pharmaceuticals) sector, and areas such as [Teaching and Education.](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/teacher-training-and-education) However, the skills and knowledge you’ll develop in your degree will be valuable in a wide range of roles and sectors and over 85% of graduate recruiters will recruit students from any degree discipline.

## **Roles**

Each job title links through to a broad job description, salary and conditions, entry requirements, typical recruiters, and links to further useful information.

* [Animal Technician](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/animal-technician)
* [Corporate Social Responsibility Coordinator](https://www.goconstruct.org/construction-careers/what-jobs-are-right-for-me/corporate-social-responsibility-csr-coordinator/)
* [Environmental Consultant](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/environmental-consultant)
* [Environmental Education Officer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/environmental-education-officer)
* [Environmental Manager](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/environmental-manager)
* [Ecologist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/ecologist)
* [Nature Conservation Officer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/nature-conservation-officer)
* [Primary School Teacher](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/primary-school-teacher)
* [RSPCA Inspector](https://www.rspca.org.uk/utilities/jobs/profiles/inspector)
* [Secondary School Teacher](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/secondary-school-teacher)
* [Waste Management Officer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/waste-management-officer)
* [Zookeeper](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/zookeeper)
* [Zoologist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/zoologist)

You can view additional job roles by using the [prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/zoology).ac.uk and [Indeed.com](https://uk.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/careers-in-zoology) websites.

## **Building Experience**

For many roles in this area, work experience and/or volunteering will be essential to build skills and demonstrate your commitment:

* Build work experience for example through [Campus Jobs](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Campus-Jobs) or [securing an internship](https://www.ratemyplacement.co.uk/)
* Find volunteering opportunities: [Reading Voluntary Action](http://rva.org.uk/) (rva.org.uk) | [The Conservation Volunteers (tcv.org.uk)](https://www.tcv.org.uk/?_ga=2.50476713.1259593240.1563886983-1568395215.1563886983) | [wildlifetrusts](https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/find-wildlife-trust).org | [charitychoice](https://www.charitychoice.co.uk/charities).co.uk | [Citizen Scientist on London’s rivers](https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/uk-europe/volunteer-for-londons-rivers) (these ideas are the tip of the iceberg, there are lots of ways to find volunteering opportunities in the areas you are interested in)
* Gain some experience by volunteering on campus: [Cole Museum of Zoology](https://www.reading.ac.uk/colemuseum/clmu-getinvolved/clmu-getinvolved.aspx) | [Herbarium](https://www.reading.ac.uk/herbarium/volunteers) | [Museum of English Rural Life](https://merl.reading.ac.uk/communities/volunteer/) or [Harris Gardens](http://www.friendsoftheharrisgarden.org.uk/volunteers.html) (depending on your timetable)
* Apply for a paid research internship [UROP](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Gaining-experience/UROP) (penultimate year students only)
* Apply for the [Reading Internship Scheme](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Gaining-experience/RIS) – these are paid summer opportunities with local employers which are exclusive to UoR students. These opportunities, and many others, are advertised on [My Jobs Online](https://reading.targetconnect.net/home.html)
* Get a [Thrive mentor](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Advice-and-development/Mentoring/THRIVE) and build a relationship with a professional (penultimate year students only)
* Get involved in a society: look at the full list of [societies](https://readingsu.co.uk/student-opportunities/societies) for one aligned to your interests
* If you are thinking about teaching as a possible career, you could consider volunteering for the University’s [Students in Schools](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Opportunities/Volunteering/Students-in-Schools) scheme.

## **Finding Opportunities**

### Education

[Get Into Teaching](https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/) | [TEFL](https://www.tefl.org/en/) | [Teach First](https://www.teachfirst.org.uk/)

### Environment/Conservation

[Environment Job](https://www.environmentjob.co.uk/jobs) | [greenjobs](https://www.greenjobs.co.uk/).co.uk | [Nature Jobs - Science |](http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) [[National Trust](http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)](https://www.nationaltrustjobs.org.uk/)

### Zoos

[Zoological Society of London](http://www.zsl.org/) (zsl.org) | [Beale Park](https://www.bealepark.org.uk/) | [Living Rainforest](https://livingrainforest.org/) | [Cotswold Wildlife Park](https://www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk/) | [Crocodiles of the World](https://www.crocodilesoftheworld.co.uk/) | [Chester Zoo](https://www.chesterzoo.org/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIjraWoMjN4wIVEFXTCh0b0w9BEAAYASAAEgK3tPD_BwE) | [Longleat](http://jobs.longleat.co.uk/) or visit [British & Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums](http://www.biaza.org.uk/) (biaza.org.uk) for a list of zoos and aquariums.

### Public Sector/Policy

For roles with Natural England; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Animal and Plant Health Agency visit [civilservicejobs](https://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr/jobs.cgi).service.gov.uk or [Environment Agency](https://environmentagencyjobs.tal.net/candidate/jobboard/vacancy/1/adv)

For graduate schemes visit [Faststream](https://www.faststream.gov.uk/) (Civil Service) or [National Graduate Development Programme](https://www.local.gov.uk/national-graduate-development-programme) (Local government)

### Further Study/Research

[University of Reading](https://www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/study/postgraduate-study.aspx) | [FindaMasters](https://www.findamasters.com/).com | [FindaPhD](https://www.findaphd.com/).com | [Veterinary Medicine](https://www.vetschoolscouncil.ac.uk/study-and-training/postgraduate-studies/) (vetschoolscouncil.ac.uk) | [Natural Environment Research Council - NERC](https://www.ukri.org/councils/nerc/)

### Graduate Jobs

[prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/).ac.uk | [targetjobs](https://targetjobs.co.uk/).co.uk | [milkround](https://www.milkround.com/).com | [ratemyplacement](https://www.ratemyplacement.co.uk/).co.uk | [gradcracker](https://www.gradcracker.com/search/civil-building/environment-and-sustainability-graduate-jobs).com

## **Exploring Further**

There are many professional bodies associated with these areas which can provide useful information for example the [Royal Society of Biology](https://www.rsb.org.uk/about-us) (rsb.org.uk), [Marine Biological Association (mba.ac.uk)](https://www.mba.ac.uk/about) and the Society for the Environment has a useful [list](https://socenv.org.uk/page/ProfessionalBodies) of the licensed professional bodies relating to a range of disciplines.

The skills and knowledge you’ve developed in your degree will be valuable in a wide range of roles and sectors. If you’re thinking of looking further afield but aren’t sure where to start, why not [book an appointment](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Advice-and-development/MyJobsOnline) with one of our Careers Consultants? Remember, graduates can use the Careers Centre for up to two years after they graduate.

Explore our [Careers Blog](https://blogs.reading.ac.uk/careers/) for more industry guidance and useful careers advice!